

rethought its mission and educational message. In response to hundreds of letters from young women seeking programming that could better address the changing roles of young women and girls in our society, Girls Inc. initiated a major fundraising campaign, tripled its budget, and more than doubled the number of centers nationwide. With a strong financial foothold, and in the wake of the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and a flood of women entering the workforce, Girls Inc. shifted the organization from its role as shaper of homemakers and good citizens to a new role as an advocate for the rights and needs of girls of all backgrounds and abilities.

Girls Inc. today is a multifaceted organization, devoted to the dual goals of empowering girls and creating a more equitable society. The work of Girls Inc. is especially significant in California's 9th Congressional District, with Girls Inc. of Alameda County annually serving over 7,000 young women and their families, many of whom are my constituents. Under the excellent longtime leadership of Executive Director Pat Loomes, Girls Inc. of Alameda County has reached untold numbers of girls in the East Bay through its successful implementation of numerous programs such as the GIRLSmart intensive after school literacy program, and the Eureka Program, which seeks to give young women the opportunity to explore different career options, take on leadership roles and take positive risks.

This four-year program is especially significant to my District Office, where Girls Inc. Eureka Program participants have sought and been placed in internships there every summer for the past several years. It has been an honor to get to know these young women and to assist them in developing the tools and the knowledge they will need as our future leaders, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue this work in partnership with Girls Inc. every year.

Today, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the directors, staff, supporters, and most of all, the girls of Girls Inc. for their work to reach out to, educate and empower young women and girls everywhere. Their extraordinary work has touched the lives of countless young people, and I thank Girls Inc. for its ongoing commitment to helping all girls to become strong, smart and bold.

#### HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act. While I strongly support improving and advancing health information technology, I am disappointed that the Majority chose to bring this inadequate bill to the House Floor instead of offering the Enzi-

Kennedy-Frist-Clinton bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

H.R. 4157 does not provide for the development or adoption of interoperability standard. It does not provide funding to help providers transition to an electronic medical records system. And it does not provide privacy protections which will ensure that patients can control access to their own sensitive electronic health information. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has stated that "enacting H.R. 4157 would not significantly affect either the rate at which the use of health technology will grow or how well that technology will be designed and implemented."

Mr. Chairman, all of this makes you wonder why the Majority insisted on bringing this bill to the floor and refused to consider the Dingell-Rangel substitute. The Dingell-Rangel substitute was the bipartisan Senate-passed bill with additional key privacy protections. It authorized necessary funding to help providers adopt health IT and it removed provisions that expanded waste, fraud and abuse.

Mr. Chairman, we must bring our healthcare system into the 21st century. To do so, we must have a comprehensive, interoperable technology-based system that will also protect patient privacy. With this, we will improve efficiency, ensure patient care, and reduce medical error. Unfortunately, this bill has too many flaws and does little to improve upon our outmoded pen and pad system. I am disappointed that the Majority did not allow us to vote on a bill that will make a difference. Americans deserve better.

#### IN SUPPORT OF PROVIDING COTTON TARIFF RELIEF FOR HIGH-QUALITY SHIRT MAKERS

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced duty suspension legislation for high-quality woven cotton shirting fabrics that are not currently produced in the United States. Today, after receiving valuable input from the International Trade Commission, ITC, and the National Council of Textile Organizations, NCTO, I am happy to reintroduce a slightly revised version of this legislation.

The high-quality cotton fabrics affected by this legislation are used in the domestic production of fine men's and boys' dress shirts. Unfortunately, several American companies that produce these shirts are being unfairly penalized by tariffs on the cotton they must import for this purpose. But because this type of cotton is not produced domestically, these tariffs protect no American interest.

What's more, Canada has eliminated its tariffs on this type of imported woven shirting fabrics, and under a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, Canadian shirt makers can export large quantities of these shirts to the U.S. duty-free. This further puts U.S.-based shirt manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

Last year, following a request for public comments by the House Ways and Means Committee on all tariff relief trade bills, the NCTO raised a concern about the scope of fabrics that could conceivably be covered by

my original bill, H.R. 1945. In addition, the Ways and Means Committee requested technical comments on all tariff relief bills from the ITC.

Because this legislation was never intended to cover other cotton fabrics—and to alleviate any perceived concerns about the scope of the bill—I have adjusted the language in the bill to specifically list the affected fabrics by number. This will make it perfectly clear that the bill only covers men's and boys' cotton shirting fabrics. In addition, the bill has been adjusted to reflect minor technical corrections suggested by the ITC.

I am proud to say that this newly revised bill has gained the approval of NCTO. Therefore, it is my hope that this legislation will serve as a strong demonstration of continuing House support for these duty suspensions, which are also included in companion legislation that has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense tariff relief measure that will yield positive benefits for American companies, workers and consumers.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR CLUB OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

The Holy Saviour Club was founded by Italian-American immigrants from the town of Montella, Italy. It was the desire of the founding families to share their Italian heritage and culture with their fellow Montgomery County citizens.

The Holy Saviour Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a weekend celebration on August 4th–6th and the members and guests will participate in a celebratory procession, feast, and a solemn mass at Holy Saviour Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. It is my hope the Club continues to prosper and promote the Italian heritage and culture of its members for the benefit of the larger Montgomery County community.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LEONARD H. ROBINSON, COMMITTEE ADVOCATE FOR AFRICA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leonard H. Robinson, a humble and committed public servant whose judgment and insight helped further USA policy initiatives in Africa and whose dedication and leadership helped change the lives on two different continents. Mr. Robinson who was a strong advocate for Africa, and for the rights of others, died unexpectedly at Washington Hospital